

duced very favorable results in the hands of Dr. Dowse "in facial, lumbar and abdominal neuralgias, especially when of catarrhal, rheumatic or gouty origin." Iodide of potassium is highly spoken of, more especially when there is a "clear history of gout or syphilis."

The author gives a very short and inadequate account of extract of Indian hemp. There is no more valuable remedy in those forms of neuralgia of the head which pass under the name of hemicrania or migraine. Of its persistent use in large doses for the relief of such neuralgias we cannot speak too highly after a rather large experience. But, as Dr. Dowse says, great care must be taken in selecting the drug. The majority of its preparations found in the market are either of uncertain strength or worthless. To this fact more than anything else must be ascribed the ill success with it which is so often reported.

Very much depends, in the successful treatment of neuralgias, not alone on a just notion of their nature, but on a judicious and tactful use of remedies. Dr. Dowse's practical observations are valuable though not novel.

The remainder of the work is occupied in giving an account of various forms of neuralgia, which are generally brief, and present nothing worthy of special mention after what has been said of the author's therapeutics. Upon the whole we fail to see any place this work is to fill, which had not been already better done by works already in existence, and quite as accessible to English readers as is this little hastily written memoir.

### III.—HERMANN: PHYSIOLOGY.

HANDBUCH DER PHYSIOLOGIE. Herausgegeben von Dr. L. Hermann.

Since our notice of the first two volumes of this work, (January, 1880,) several new parts have appeared. The third volume comprising the organs of the special senses is now complete. The dioptries of the eye and the perception of light and colors are presented by Prof. A. Fick, while Hering has taken up the sense of space and the movements of the eyeball. Both parts are well written and quite exhaustive, but they do not at all please when compared with Aubert's physiological optics written some four years ago as a part of Graefe and Saemisch's (German) handbook of ophthalmology. The comparison is just since both works have the same scope. Aubert's compilation though smaller in bulk, is fully as exhaustive and contains its information in an easily digestible form. The present work, however, suffers from too technical a style, which without increasing its value as a book of reference, is apt to deter even the more advanced student from reading it as a book of information. The

suggestiveness, it is still an excellent presentation. Not one of the least merits of the description is the fact that Luchsinger is himself the author of the bulk of the experiments. The same author has furnished an interesting and novel paragraph on the galvanic currents of glands. As a pupil of Hermann he does not admit the existence of any constant current in either the uninjured muscle or gland during repose. But during activity the galvanometer shows the establishment of a regular and constant current. In the case of sweat glands, where it can be shown most positively, its direction is inward towards the gland. This secretion current is, according to Hermann, the cause of the galvanometric deviation observed on deriving from both (human) arms, while one is being contracted. On the skin of the frog similar observations were made. It seems however, that two currents arise in that locality on irritating the glands. The inward current is produced in glands of alkaline secretion, while the secretion of an acid juice furnishes a current having an outward direction. These currents as well as the visible secretions are checked by atropin.

The first part of the fifth volume contains also the chemistry of digestion by R. Maly. This chapter is quite thorough though somewhat encyclopædic in style; although the methods are usually described, the author is still rather arbitrary in his judgment at times. An unwarrantable assumption it appears to us that Maly refuses to quote original memoirs in periodic literature, and refers only to the yearly abstracts in Canstatt's and other retrospects, and last, but not least, in his own "Jahresbericht f. Thierchemie." It seems also autocratic that he should refuse to bring the subject to a later date than the year 1878.

H. G.

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#### IV.—FABRE: NERVOUS DISORDERS.

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LES RELATIONS PATHOGENIQUES DES TROUBLES NERVEUX, ou les Troubles nerveux étudiés dans leurs Rapports Réciproques de cause à effet avec les autres Phénomènes Morbides, par le Dr. Augustin Fabre. Leçons recueillies par le Dr. Audibert. Paris, 1880. (*The Pathogenic Relations of Nervous Disorders.*)

We cannot introduce this work better to the readers of the JOURNAL than by quoting the author's preface. He says: "My object in publishing this volume is not so much to meet a want in medical literature as to call attention to it. A complement is needed to the remarkable works on diseases of the nervous system that have recently appeared. They have studied with care the diseases themselves, but they have too much neglected the consideration of nervous affections in their relations with other disorders, especially with visceral lesions; reciprocal rela-